

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 10-32 were rejected by the Examiner in the above-identified Office Action. In response, claims 1-4, 10-22, 28, and 31 have been amended, claims 23-27 have been cancelled, and claims 33-41 have been added.

Accordingly, claims 1-4, 10-22, and 28-41 are now pending.

Amendments

Support for the amendments to claims 1-4, 10-22, 28, and 31 may be found at least on page 18, lines 20-27 of Applicant's Specification. Support for new claims 33-41 may be found throughout the specification, including but not limited to, e.g. paragraph 36 and 52. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

In "Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112", on page 2, the Examiner rejects claim 21 under §112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner states that the recitation "fifth display container cells" lacks sufficient antecedent basis. In response, Applicant has amended claim 21, overcoming the Examiner's rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

In "Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101", on page 2, the Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 10-22 under §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1-4 and 10-22, overcoming the Examiner's rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 10-32 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,850,548 to Williams (hereinafter, Williams). In response, Applicant has amended claims 1-4, 10-22, 28, and 31, overcoming the Examiner's rejection.

More specifically, the Examiner quotes at length various portions of Williams as disclosing the recitations of claim 1. Those portions describe a visual development system which enables a user to graphically build a program. The system is shown in Figure 5 as comprising a plurality of windows, some of the

windows nested within each other. Each of the windows may be associated with a component (see, e.g., window 550, which is associated with VisualComponent1). Also, components are described as being nestable within each other to an arbitrary depth (Abstract). As shown in Figure 6A, this nesting relationship may be displayed to the user by placing an icon for a child component within a window of a parent component (see, e.g., icon 620 for VisualComponent2 within the window 630 for VisualComponent1). When the user interacts with the icon, a window corresponding to the component represented by the icon may be opened and displayed to the user (see window 640 in Figure 6A). The Examiner also points to Figure 6C, equating icon 651 to the first display action cell and property menu 652 as the third/fourth display container cell, which is displayed in response to user interaction with icon 651.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite “the first action being conditioned at least in part on one or more state values or policy attributes of one or more of the display container cells.” In contrast, Williams does not disclose the conditioning of actions associated with icons, much less conditioning those actions on state values or policy attributes of the display container cells. The icons of Williams are not described in any great detail and thus are merely state of the art icons which automatically perform an action in response to user interaction.

§102 rejections require that the cited reference disclose the claimed invention in as complete of detail as is claimed. Nothing in Williams remotely teaches or suggests the new recitations of amended claim 1. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Williams.

Amended claim 28 includes recitations similar to those of amended claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons, claim 28 is patentable over Williams. Claims 2-4, 10-22, and 29-32 depend from claims 1 and 28, respectively, incorporating their recitations. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 2-4, 10-22, and 29-32 are patentable over Williams.

Additionally, Williams does not teach or suggest the further recitations of claim 19: “the first action is conditioned at least in part on one or more policy attributes of one or more of the display container cells within which the first action cell is nested.” As mentioned above, Williams does not disclose that the actions associated with the

action cells are conditioned, much less that they are conditioned on policy attributes of the display container cells within which the action cell is nested. Accordingly, for at least this additional reason, claim 19 is patentable over Williams.

Further, Williams does not teach or suggest the further recitations of claim 20: "the first action is conditioned at least in part on the one or more state values or policy attributes, and the state values and policy attributes are associated with a display container cell that is separate and distinct from the first, second, third, and fourth display container cells." As mentioned above, Williams does not disclose that the actions associated with the action cells are conditioned, much less that they are conditioned on state values or policy attributes of a display cell that is separate and distinct from both the cells in which the action cell is nested and the cell(s) which are the target of the actions. Accordingly, for at least this additional reason, claim 20 is patentable over Williams.

New claims 33-41 are directed towards embodiments combining features recited in previously pending claims and features recited in allowed parent applications. For reasons similar to those set forth above and reasons why the parent applications are allowed, claims 33-41 are allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1-4, 10-22, and 28-41 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 381-8813.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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